IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A multi-layer tubing, comprising:

a thermally conductive metal layer having a metallic surface, the metal layer having opposite first and second side edge portions; and

a substantially thermally non-conductive, metallic felt layer having an outer felt layer surface attached to the metallic surface and an exposed inner felt layer surface, the metallic felt layer having opposite third and fourth side edge portions, the metal layer and the metallic felt layer collectively forming a laminate configured as a substantially cylindrical structure with the metallic felt layer positioned radially inward of the metal layer,

wherein the first and second side edge portions of the metal layer overlap with and are coupled to one another at a coupling portion, and wherein at least one of the third and fourth side edge portions of the metallic felt layer is interposed between the first and second side edge portions within the coupling portion.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) A multi-layer tubing according to claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein the coupling portion comprises the opposite side edge portions crimped to one another.

14. (Currently amended) A multi-layer tubing according to claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein the multi-layer tubing is free of a metal wall inward of the metallic felt layer and having overlapping opposite side edge portions coupled at the coupling portion.

15. (Currently amended) A multi-layer tubing according to claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein the laminate comprises a plurality of layers each configured in a substantially cylindrical structure and coupled at the coupling portion, and wherein the metallic felt layer defines an innermost layer of the laminate.

16. (Currently amended) A multi-layer tubing according to claim ~~10~~ 9, wherein the metallic felt layer is formed from a fibrous material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, carbon steel and aluminum.

17. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 9, wherein the metallic felt layer has a basis weight in the range of from about 500 g/m^2 to about 1500 g/m^2.

18. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 16, wherein the metallic felt layer has a mean fiber width in the range of about 40 microns to about 120 microns.

19. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 9, wherein the metallic felt layer is welded to the metal layer.

20. (Currently amended) A multi-layer tubing, comprising:

a thermally conductive metal layer having a metallic surface, the metal layer having opposite first and second side edge portions; and

a substantially thermally non-conductive, metallic felt layer having an outer felt layer surface attached to the metallic surface and an inner felt layer surface, the metallic felt layer having opposite third and fourth side edge portions, the metal layer and the metallic felt layer collectively forming a laminate ~~having opposite side edge portions overlapping and coupled to one another at a coupling portion to configure the laminate~~ configured as a substantially cylindrical structure with the metallic felt layer positioned radially inward of the metal layer,

wherein the first and second side edge portions of the metal layer overlap with and are coupled to one another at a coupling portion, and wherein at least one of the third and fourth side edge portions of the metallic felt layer is interposed between the first and second side edge portions within the coupling portion,

wherein the laminate is free of a thermally conductive path through the coupling portion.

21. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the metallic felt layer prevents the thermally conductive path from extending through the coupling portion.

22. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the coupling portion comprises the opposite side edge portions crimped to one another.

23. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the multi-layer tubing is free of a metal wall inward of the metallic felt layer and having overlapping opposite side edge portions coupled at the coupling portion.

24. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the laminate comprises a plurality of layers each configured in a substantially cylindrical structure and coupled at the coupling portion, and wherein the metallic felt layer defines an innermost layer of the laminate.

25. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the metallic felt layer is formed from a fibrous material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, carbon steel and aluminum.

26. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the metallic felt layer has a basis weight in the range of from about 500 g/m^2 to about 1500 g/m^2.

27. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 26, wherein the metallic felt layer has a mean fiber width in the range of about 40 microns to about 120 microns.

28. (Original) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the metallic felt layer is welded to the metal layer.

29. (Currently amended) A thermally insulated assembly, comprising:

a thermally conductive structure; and

a multi-layer tubing comprising a thermally conductive metal layer and a substantially thermally non-conductive, metallic felt layer, the metal layer having opposite first and second side edges, the metallic felt layer having inner and outer felt layer surfaces extending between third and fourth side edges, the inner felt layer surface surrounding the thermally conducting structure, the outer felt layer surface surrounded by and attached to an inner surface of the metal layer, the metal layer and the metallic felt layer collectively forming a laminate ~~having opposite side edge portions overlapping and coupled to one another at a coupling portion to~~ configure ~~the laminate~~ as a substantially cylindrical structure with the metallic felt layer positioned radially between the metal layer and the thermally conductive structure,

wherein the first and second side edges of the metal layer overlap with and are coupled to one another at a coupling portion, and wherein at least one of the third and fourth side edge portions of the metallic felt layer is interposed between the first and second side edge portions within the coupling portion.

30. (Original) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the laminate is free of a thermally conductive path through the coupling portion.

31. (Currently amended) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the metallic felt layer physically separates and prevents direct thermal communication between the thermally conductive structure ~~from~~ and the metal layer.

32. (Original) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the thermally conductive structure is tubular and has a central passageway for the passage of fluid.

33. (Original) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 32, wherein the thermally conductive structure comprises an automotive exhaust pipe.

34. (Original) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the thermally conductive structure is free of side edge portions overlapping with and coupled to the multi-layer tubing at the coupling portion.

35. (Original) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the coupling portion is crimped.

36. (Original) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the metallic felt layer is formed from a metallic material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, carbon steel and aluminum.

37. (Original) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the metallic felt layer has a basis weight in the range of from about 500 g/m^2 to about 1500 g/m^2.

38. (Original) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 37, wherein the metallic felt layer has a mean fiber width in the range of about 40 microns to about 120 microns.

39. (Original) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the metallic felt layer is welded to the metal layer.

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) A method ~~according to claim 40, further~~ for thermally insulating a thermally conductive structure, comprising:

providing a laminate comprising a thermally conductive metal layer and a substantially thermally non-conductive, metallic felt layer, the metal layer having opposite first and second side edge portions, the metallic felt layer having an outer felt layer surface and an exposed inner felt layer surface extending between opposite third and fourth side edge portions, the outer felt layer surface attached to the metal layer;

arranging the laminate around a thermally conductive structure to configure the laminate as a substantially cylindrical structure with the metallic felt layer positioned radially between the metal layer and the thermally conductive structure; and

overlapping and coupling the ~~opposite~~ first and second side edge portions ~~of the laminate~~ to one another at a coupling portion, with at least one of the third and fourth side edge portions interposed between the first and second side edge portions within the coupling portion ~~to configure the laminate as a substantially cylindrical structure with the metallic felt layer positioned radially between the metal layer and the thermally conductive structure~~.

42. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein the laminate is free of a thermally conductive path through the coupling portion.

43. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 41, wherein the metallic felt layer physically separates and prevents direct thermal communication between the thermally conductive structure ~~from~~ and the metal layer.

44. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein the thermally conductive structure is tubular and has a central passageway for the passage of fluid.

45. (Original) A method according to claim 44, wherein the thermally conductive structure comprises an automotive exhaust pipe.

46. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein the thermally conductive structure is free of side edge portions overlapping with and coupled to the substantially cylindrical structure at the coupling portion.

47. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein the coupling portion is crimped.

48. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein the metallic felt layer is formed from a metallic material selected from the group consisting of stainless steel, carbon steel and aluminum.

49. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein the metallic felt layer has a basis weight in the range of from about 500 g/m^2 to about 1500 g/m^2.

50. (Original) A method according to claim 48, wherein the metallic felt layer has a mean fiber width in the range of about 40 microns to about 120 microns.

51. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein the metallic felt layer is welded to the metal layer.

52. (New) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 9, wherein the third and fourth side edge portions are coextensive with the first and second side edge portions, respectively.

53. (New) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 9, wherein the first and third side edge portions establish a first hook-shaped section, wherein the second and fourth side edge portions establish a second hook-shaped section, and wherein the coupling portion comprises the first and second hook-shaped sections inter-engaged with one another.

54. (New) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 9, wherein the coupling portion comprises a crimpable bow-shape section in which the first and third side edge portions are engaged with the second and fourth side edge portions.

55. (New) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the third and fourth side edge portions are coextensive with the first and second side edge portions, respectively.

56. (New) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the first and third side edge portions establish a first hook-shaped section, wherein the second and fourth side edge portions establish a second hook-shaped section, and wherein the coupling portion comprises the first and second hook-shaped sections inter-engaged with one another.

57. (New) A multi-layer tubing according to claim 20, wherein the coupling portion comprises a crimpable bow-shape section in which the first and third side edge portions are engaged with the second and fourth side edge portions.

58. (New) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the third and fourth side edge portions are coextensive with the first and second side edge portions, respectively.

59. (New) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the first and third side edge portions establish a first hook-shaped section, wherein the second and fourth side edge portions establish a second hook-shaped section, and wherein the coupling portion comprises the first and second hook-shaped sections inter-engaged with one another.

60. (New) A thermally insulated assembly according to claim 29, wherein the coupling portion comprises a crimpable bow-shape section in which the first and third side edge portions are engaged with the second and fourth side edge portions.

61. (New) A method according to claim 41, wherein the third and fourth side edge portions are coextensive with the first and second side edge portions, respectively.

62. (New) A methodaccording to claim 41, wherein the first and third side edge portions establish a first hook-shaped section, wherein the second and fourth side edge portions establish a second hook-shaped section, and wherein the coupling portion comprises the first and second hook-shaped sections inter-engaged with one another.

63. (New) A method according to claim 41, wherein the coupling portion comprises a crimpable bow-shape section in which the first and third side edge portions are engaged with the second and fourth side edge portions.